

**CLAIMS**

**What is claimed is:**

- 1       1. A method for performing speech recognition comprising:  
2           receiving user speech;  
3           determining a plurality of potential candidates, each said candidate providing a  
4           textual interpretation of said speech;  
5           calculating confidence scores for said candidates and comparing said  
6           confidence scores to a predetermined threshold; and  
7           presenting selected ones of said plurality of candidates to said user as  
8           alternative interpretations of said speech if none of said confidence scores is greater  
9           than said predetermined threshold.

10      2. The method of claim 1, wherein said selected ones of said plurality of candidates  
11     have corresponding confidence scores above a predetermined minimum threshold.

12      3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
13           receiving a user input specifying one of said selected ones of said plurality of  
14           candidates as a correct recognition result corresponding to said speech.

15      4. The method of claim 1, wherein selected ones of said plurality of candidates are  
16     presented in a graphical format.

17      5. The method of claim 1, wherein said selected ones of said plurality of candidates  
18     are presented using an audio user interface.

19      6. The method of claim 1, wherein said speech specifies a character, and at least  
20     one of said selected ones of said plurality of candidates is a character.

- 1       7. A method for performing speech recognition comprising:  
2           receiving user speech;  
3           determining a plurality of potential candidates, each said candidate providing a  
4           textual interpretation of said speech;  
5           calculating confidence scores for said candidates and comparing said  
6           confidence scores to a predetermined threshold;  
7           identifying a selected group of said plurality of candidates; and  
8           querying said user to identify one candidate of said selected group as a correct  
9           recognition result corresponding to said speech if none of said confidence scores is  
10          greater than said predetermined threshold.
- 11       8. The method of claim 7, wherein said selected group of said plurality of  
12          candidates have corresponding confidence scores above a predetermined minimum  
13          threshold.
- 14       9. The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
15           receiving a user input specifying one of said selected ones of said plurality of  
16          candidates as a correct recognition result corresponding to said speech.
- 17       10. The method of claim 7, wherein said speech specifies a character, and at least  
18          one of said selected ones of said plurality of candidates is a character.
- 19       11. A method for performing speech recognition comprising:  
20           receiving user speech;  
21           determining a recognition result for said speech, said recognition result having a  
22           corresponding confidence score;  
23           comparing said confidence score of said recognition result to a predetermined  
24           minimum threshold; and  
25           if said conference score is less than said minimum threshold, presenting at least

8       one word candidate as an alternative interpretation of said speech, said word candidate  
9       being determined by a speech recognition engine based upon said user speech and a  
10      confidence score.

1       12. A machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having  
2       a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to  
3       perform the steps of:

4             receiving user speech;  
5             determining a plurality of potential candidates, each said candidate providing a  
6       textual interpretation of said speech;  
7             calculating confidence scores for said candidates and comparing said  
8       confidence scores to a predetermined threshold; and  
9             presenting selected ones of said plurality of candidates to said user as  
10      alternative interpretations of said speech if none of said confidence scores is greater  
11      than said predetermined threshold.

1       13. The machine readable storage of claim 12, wherein said selected ones of said  
2       plurality of candidates have corresponding confidence scores above a predetermined  
3       minimum threshold.

1       14. The machine readable storage of claim 12, further comprising:  
2             receiving a user input specifying one of said selected ones of said plurality of  
3       candidates as a correct recognition result corresponding to said speech.

1       15. The machine readable storage of claim 12, wherein selected ones of said  
2       plurality of candidates are presented in a graphical format.

1       16. The machine readable storage of claim 12, wherein said selected ones of said  
2       plurality of candidates are presented using an audio user interface.

1       17. The machine readable storage of claim 12, wherein said speech specifies a  
2       character, and at least one of said selected ones of said plurality of candidates is a  
3       character.

1       18. A machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having  
2       a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to  
3       perform the steps of:

4              receiving user speech;

5              determining a plurality of potential candidates, each said candidate providing a  
6       textual interpretation of said speech;

7              calculating confidence scores for said candidates and comparing said  
8       confidence scores to a predetermined threshold;

9              identifying a selected group of said plurality of candidates; and

10             querying said user to identify one candidate of said selected group as a correct  
11       recognition result corresponding to said speech if none of said confidence scores is  
12       greater than said predetermined threshold.

13       19. The machine readable storage of claim 18, wherein said selected group of said  
14       plurality of candidates have corresponding confidence scores above a predetermined  
15       minimum threshold.

16       20. The machine readable storage of claim 18, further comprising:

17             receiving a user input specifying one of said selected ones of said plurality of  
18       candidates as a correct recognition result corresponding to said speech.

19       21. The machine readable storage of claim 18, wherein said speech specifies a  
20       character, and at least one of said selected ones of said plurality of candidates is a  
21       character.

1       22. A machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having  
2       a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to  
3       perform the steps of:

4 receiving user speech;

5 determining a recognition result for said speech, said recognition result having a  
6 corresponding confidence score;

7 comparing said confidence score of said recognition result to a predetermined  
8 minimum threshold; and

9 if said conference score is less than said minimum threshold, presenting at least  
10 one word candidate as an alternative interpretation of said speech, said word candidate  
11 being determined by a speech recognition engine based upon said user speech and a  
12 confidence score.

12 confidence score.